



STATE SENATOR
TED KENNEDY, JR.

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Hosting the Shoreline Economic Strategic Planning Summit with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce

State government can play a critical role in business success and future job growth, but only if legislators are listening and learning from those impacted by our laws. In order to get ideas and feedback, I partnered with the **Shoreline Chamber of Commerce** in hosting the **12th District Business Summit**. We discussed our region's economic climate with over 150 local business leaders.



Together we identified our strategic assets, most promising opportunities, common bureaucratic barriers, and ways to improve our competitiveness. Conversations like these are critical to expanding our economy and ensuring we are prepared to support the businesses of the future. **See the highlights of our discussion below:**

Business Challenges and Opportunities

- **Government can play an important role in capital formation and job growth**, but business and government need to collaborate more effectively. Currently, Connecticut has the Small Business Express and InvestCT programs to help businesses do exactly that.
- **Connecticut provides incentives to innovators**, like grants and low-interest loans to spur growth. We have seen some promising developments here but need to better target our incentives and promote these successes.
- As we **reduce the size of state government**, we need to be sure we are cutting red tape and making it easier for businesses to obtain permits and licenses.

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD)**
www.ct.gov/ecd

YOUR CONTACT AT DECD: Lindy Lee Gold, 860-270-8000. 12th District business owners should call her with any questions about state assistance.
Office of Small Business Development 860-270-8036

Developing Our Local Workforce

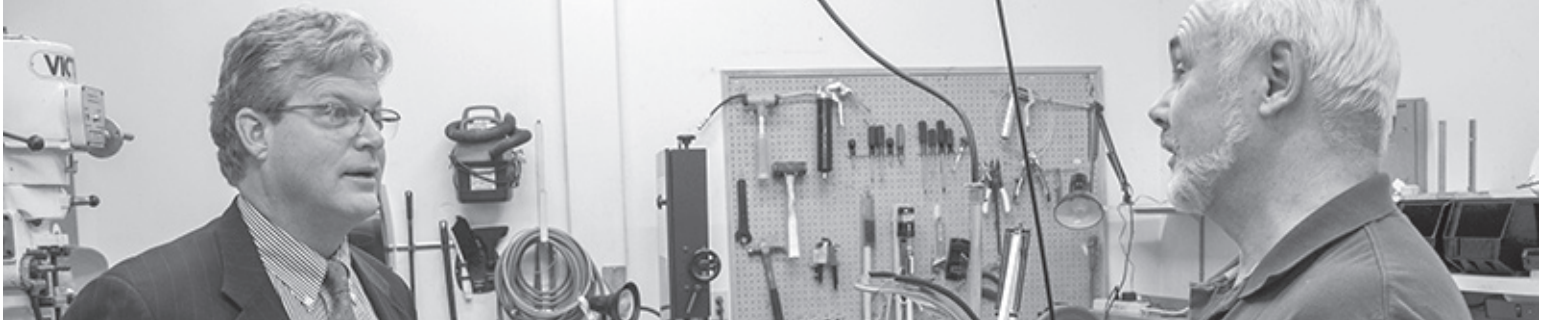
- **We are seeing growth in the bioscience and technology industries.** With our proximity to hospitals and research universities, we need to continue to capitalize on this growth sector and translate these competitive advantages into concrete results.
- **Connecticut has an exceptionally educated and productive workforce**, but we need to create more opportunities for young people early in their careers. While this younger talent often returns to Connecticut later in life, we need more mid-level career jobs to retain those that do not want to leave. We also need to promote vocational training for our manufacturing sector.



Enhancing Our Real Estate and Infrastructure Assets

- The plan to **increase funding for our transportation system** will make our area more attractive, productive, and accessible for businesses.
- As we see more and more businesses and residents move back to cities, we need to redouble our efforts to **keep our towns attractive places to live, work, and play**. The commercial and home real estate markets depend on it. We need to use our proximity to New Haven and other metro regions as a strength and facilitate access to these areas.

Listening to Local Businesses



In order for the shoreline to continue to thrive, public officials need to listen and respond to the needs and concerns of our local businesses. My job as your Senator is to be a collaborator, pulling together the best ideas from across the state. Input from local business owners gives me important insight into how I can best support an economic climate that fosters growth. Please let me know what you think we can do to promote business in our district by filling out a brief survey at www.shorelinechamberct.com, contacting me at **860-240-0455**, or visiting my website at www.SenatorKennedy.cga.ct.gov.

Together we can make Connecticut work.

FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR

Ted Kennedy, Jr.

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